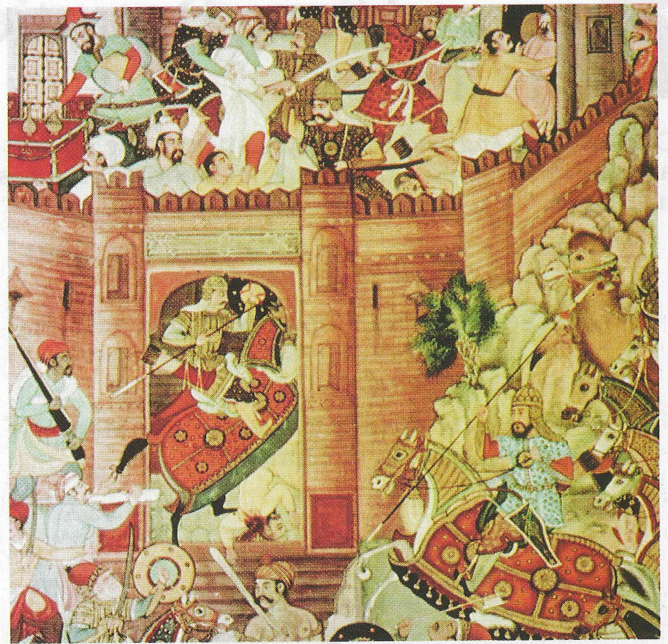


# The Mongol Empire Spans Eurasia

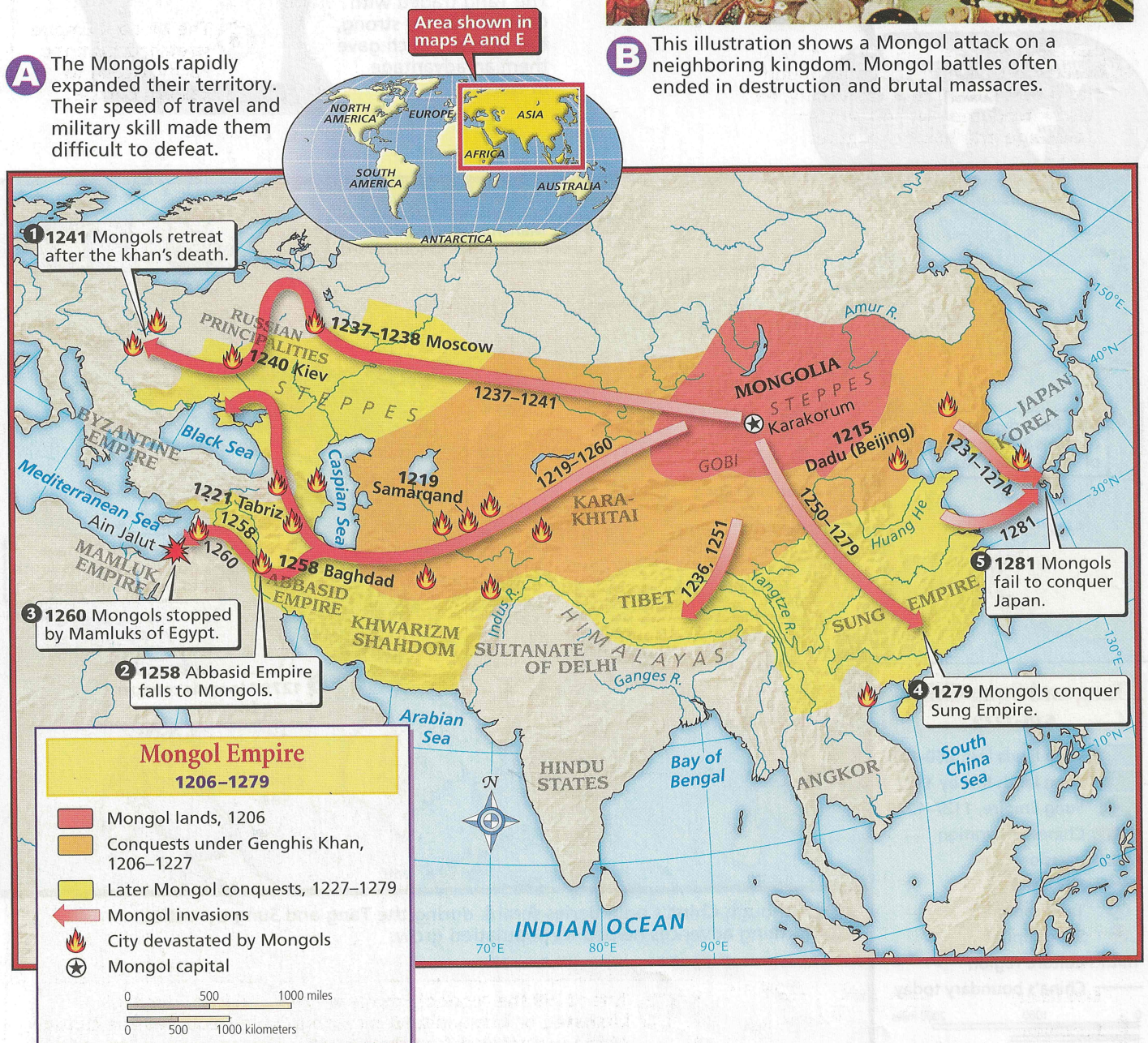
Mongol tribes swept across Asia and Europe, creating one of the largest empires in world history.

- The Mongols were nomads who originally lived in the dry grasslands of Central Asia. They were excellent horsemen and ruthless warriors.
- The Mongols conquered Muslim and Chinese empires and destroyed major cities along the Silk Road.
- During Mongol rule, trade and cultural exchange in Europe and Asia increased.
- Mongol rulers spread Islamic and Chinese culture throughout their kingdoms.



**A** The Mongols rapidly expanded their territory. Their speed of travel and military skill made them difficult to defeat.

**B** This illustration shows a Mongol attack on a neighboring kingdom. Mongol battles often ended in destruction and brutal massacres.





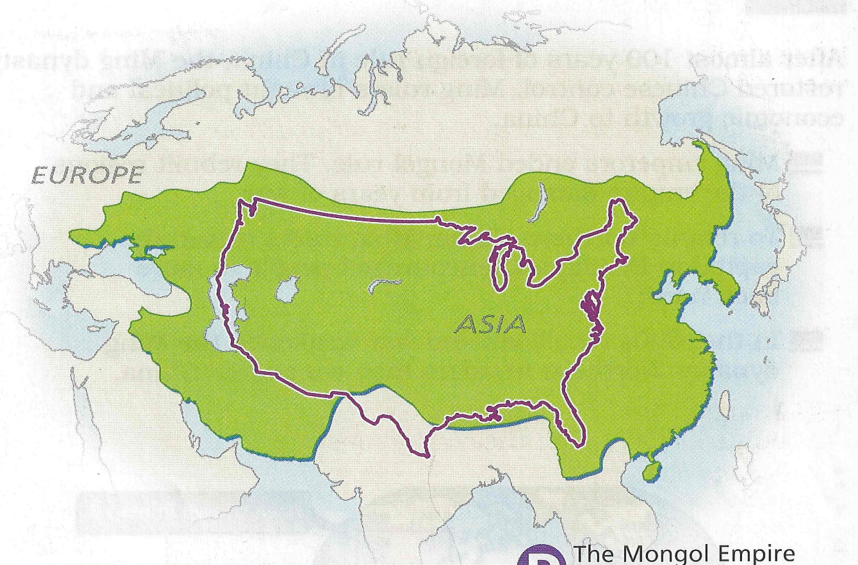


**C** Genghis was the khan, or ruler, who united the Mongol tribes. Although he is best known for his brutality, he also introduced law and written language into Mongol culture.

### How Big Was the Mongol Empire?

■ Mongol Empire

**D** The Mongol Empire stretched from the Pacific Ocean to Eastern Europe.



**E** After 1259 the Mongol Empire was divided into four regional khanates, or kingdoms. Many Mongol rulers adopted the cultures of the regions they had conquered.